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432 Sqdn., 17th Bomb. Gp.
A.P.O. 520, % Postmaster N.Y.C.

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Dec. 7, 1943

Hiya, Folks,

Mind if I come in with a rather weary hello? I've been awfully busy of late - and they tell me that I may tell you I'm at last off the continent of Africa! - It's been a long time since I first hit it on Ma's birthday, verdad? - And the last place I was in - I was there longer than anywhere in one place since I've been in the Army!

I'm now in or rather on the island of Sardinia, with the "Sardines" if I may pun! Tho our advance forces have dubbed them "Gerobies" as they called the nondescript Africans and Arabs - "Gooks"! Our set up here is much nicer than any I had in Africa so we ought to enjoy it a lot more, tho ~~it~~ 'twill surely be in a much different way. That's a nice part about moving - sorta makes up for the work involved. Also a nice part about being in ~~the~~ the same organization all the time. - I keep the same address - so I keep on getting my mail right along. Of course for a week or so it was messed up, but what's that in comparison to the weeks + months when

we first came overseas?

Can forget my awfully little bit of French I learned. I'll have to learn Italian now. - So far I get along wonderfully well in my Spanish, but it shouldn't be hard to convert over, they are so similar. - Why one Italian came up to me today explaining he had been in the Italian Army, Air corps, - and wanted to know if he could help us out on the airfield! - Believe he was disappointed when I told him it couldn't be done! -

Haven't seen much of the natives. - So haven't formed an impression, naturally. - The only thing that is apparent is the extreme poverty of all, and the nearness to actual starvation they've been under. - It was hard under normal times, but the German + Italian Armies demanded the little bit they did have. - It's actually heart-rending to watch the little kids, and grown ups too, standing around to get what refuse they can! - We try to chase them away but haven't the heart sometimes. - We have the little kids form a line and feed them the stuff we have left over after everyone has eaten - some - in fact most of them, walk miles to come. You just can't picture it.

- Dec. 7th - ~~another~~ anniversary of sorts! - Well - hope next year will be a peaceful one. - I've got to stop now and go to bed. - Tomorrow is another day and it's off to the wars for me. Bye now + lots of

Love, Frank

P.S. - Got 2 packages from Fred + Marion. - One of soup + chewing gum and one of Hershey's almond choc. - Yum - Nuff said for now.